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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

# A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

*Date of the Earliest Known Editions, 1533-4*

*[St. John's College and Magdalene College Libraries, Cambridge]*

*Reproduced in Facsimile, 1909*

Play of Love







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# The Tudor Facsimile Texts

[Vol. 43]

*Under the Supervision and Editorship of*

JOHN S. FARMER

## A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

1534

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# A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

*"A Play of Love" completes the list of interludes known to be written by, and also those attributed to, John Heywood. All are included in "The Tudor Facsimile Texts." When Hazlitt compiled his "Bibliography of Old English Literature," only one copy of this play was scheduled as extant. It was, moreover, imperfect; and of a later edition than the present one, having been printed by Waley between 1547-58. Since then earlier impressions, printed in 1533 and 1534 by the brother-in-law of the author, Wm. Rastell, have been discovered. Of these, two copies, one of each date, are at present known.*

*I am again indebted to the courtesy of the Pepysian Library authorities at Magdalene College, Cambridge, for permission to reproduce their unique example of this early interlude.*

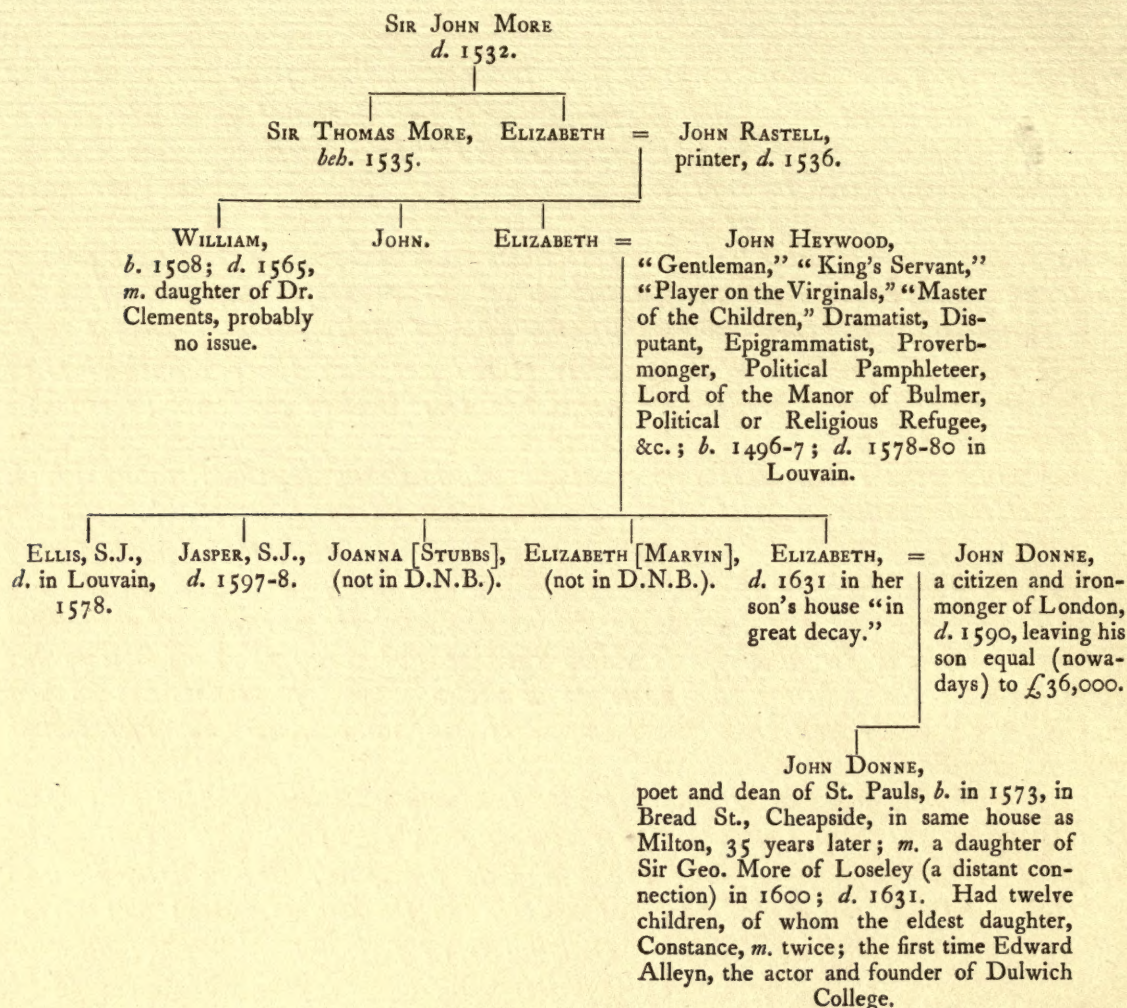
*Pasted in the Magdalene original on A. i. verso (back of title-page) is a portrait engraving of Samuel Pepys: otherwise the page is blank. As one of the special features of this series is to show originals as thoroughly as may be as they actually exist to-day, the portrait is retained. In truth, as we are indebted to the jovial secretary to the Admiralty and the president of the Royal Society of his day for a uniquely dated copy of "A Play of Love," it is not unfitting that his industry and taste as a collector, and his consequent connection with the early and later developments of English literature, indirect though this be, should be thus perpetuated.*

*Mr. R. B. Fleming, contrasting this facsimile with the original copy, says that "taking the book generally the result is very good; the only real 'fault' is the blurred patches, and these are trifling in any page. There is a stain on the lower half of all pages, most pronounced on the outside edges; this occurs all through the book." Particular criticism is as follows:—*

- (1) Title-page, this is much discoloured, specially the edges.
- (2) [A. j.] verso, the portrait is a very good reproduction of the original.
- (3) B. iiij. and [iiij.] verso, are somewhat blurred, particularly the latter. The same "fault" occurs on lower half of [C. iiij.] verso and [D. iiij.] verso.
- (4) C. j. and C. ij. verso, [C. iiij.] recto and verso, and on C. iiij. recto, the type shows through very much in the original, which is very "foxy" in places.



I have more than once referred to the fresh light recent research has thrown on the career and social status of John Heywood. Hitherto little indeed has been known, though conjecture was rife. Naturally, in the very circumscribed space now at my disposal, I can supply little more than the baldest sketch of some of the lines of recent inquiry; and I must perforce omit all detail, with many points also altogether untouched. I trust what follows will be of interest; and, for the rest, I can only refer to my forthcoming volume on the subject.



Two points I must premise: in the first place when I approached the subject nearly four years ago I was struck by the slavish fashion in which many writers on English literature followed the same track, copying from and quoting one another. This, combined with the utter paucity, apparently, of original research led me, in the second place, to jot down the known facts of Heywood's record. With these as my starting-point I planned the assault and sack of every possible source of additional knowledge of the man, his times, his circle, and his work; whether from documents, associations, chance references, or any



other likely quarry. In this connection Heywood's flight and residence in the Low Countries obviously suggested inquiry abroad. Seeking advice of Professor Bang of Louvain University as to some one competent to undertake such research, I was astonished to be informed that the work had "already been done" in Malines, Louvain, and Antwerp; that the result would be related in "*Englische Studien*"; and that I was welcome to the use of the new material. I am, therefore, indebted to this source for somewhat that follows (Band 38, 2, 234).

The most important discovery is that Heywood's social status was much superior and more assured than is generally supposed. The evidence of actual descent is not yet complete; but, as regards the social standing of his relatives and connections, his known and probable friends and acquaintances, his children and his grandchildren, the Table on page vi is suggestive. I must, however, leave many interesting side-lights unremarked for the time being, with one exception: Heywood and his wife were of sufficient standing and close enough intimates of the Mores to be specially mentioned as informed of the comment of the Emperor Charles on Sir Thomas More's execution.

Other points of particular interest on which new light has been thrown, or in respect to which inquiry is still in progress, relate to his place of birth, his university career (he probably went as early as fourteen—as did Wolsey and Udall; while his grandson, John Donne, went to Oxford when only eleven), his going to Court, his actual position there (it would appear he was musical tutor to the Princess Mary—a fact which explains much—and afterwards was associated with the Princess Elizabeth), the period of his literary activity, his advancement under Queen Mary, the connection between "*The Spider and the Fly*" and the Queen's grant of Bulmer (of which the Duke of Leeds is the present lord of the Manor), the probable date and companions of his flight to the Low Countries in the early days of Elizabeth, Wm. Rastell's will (in which Heywood's children chiefly benefited) and its connection with the family property in England, his children, grandchildren, and other descendants, &c.

I can only find further space to briefly narrate the newly discovered facts concerning his declining years. It was already known that in 1575 (April 8) he wrote to Burghley from Malines ("where I have been despoiled by Spanish and German soldiers of the little I had"), thanking him for ordering his arrears from his land at Romney to be paid to him, and speaking of himself as "an old man of seventy-eight"; also that in a list of refugees (dated Jan. 29, 1576) he is mentioned—"John Heywood, Gent. of Kent" (Egerton Papers, 63-5). This is supplemented by the following extracts from a contemporary manuscript (in French) by Father Droueshout, S.J., entitled "*History of the Society of Jesus at Antwerp*." I omit for the present all but the most salient facts:

"In 1573 Elizæus [Heywood] S.J., proceeded from England to Antwerp to discuss matters with the magistrate of the city. The General of the Company (Society of Jesus) allowed him to continue to reside in Antwerp, where his knowledge of several languages made him very useful. [D.N.B. says he became spiritual father and preacher in the house at Antwerp.] Elizæus' father then lived at Malines; persecuted for the faith,



he had come from England and settled himself there. *His son, the Jesuit, went to see him and console him. That, however, interfered with his work, and it was for this reason that Father Mercurian, General of the Society [of Jesuits], authorised the fathers in residence at Antwerp to admit to the College, with lodging and separate table, Elizæus' father, 'that worthy old man,' 'your venerable father.'* This admission took place in 1576.

*"When the troubles broke out at Antwerp in 1578, the Jesuits decided to send to Cologne 'those of us who would find it most difficult to save themselves by flight. We despatched to begin with John Heywood, the old octogenarian, with one of our number [un de nos religieux] to accompany him and conduct him to that town,' but he was stopped at the gates of the city, and the partisans of Mathias and the States compelled him to return to the College, whence 'none might go out before they were all alike chased out.' [April 1578.]*

*"The criminal oath, which it was sought to impose on all the religieux (to acknowledge the Pacification of Ghent and to fight against the Spaniards), being refused by the Jesuits, on the day of Pentecost their College was broken into and sacked, all the Fathers being made prisoners, including John and Elizæus [Heywood]. They were conducted together to the Bierhofd gate to be sent by water to Malines. Mathias and [the Prince of] Orange held different views as to violence.*

*"[The Prince of] Orange sent a courier to Malines so that the magistrates might keep the prisoners outside the gates, and secretly sent sixty horsemen to await them and kill them. The Jesuit prisoners, while on the water, addressed themselves to Mathias, who, desirous of saving them, sent beforehand to the commandant at Lierre to proceed to Malines, with a sufficient escort, to render assistance to the prisoners, and to send a courier to Louvain to Don Juan [the Spanish commander] for him to do the same, to meet the Fathers midway between Malines and Louvain.*

*"The prisoners arrived at Malines, and were forthwith condemned to be expelled. At half-past six in the evening, a few minutes before their expulsion, the escort arrived from Lierre. They met the Franciscans, also driven out of Antwerp. The escort of Don Juan was at its post, and all triumphantly entered Louvain on the 26th May 1578.*

*"The two Heywoods were benefactors of the Society [of Jesus]."*

*The year 1578 probably saw the end of Heywood's earthly pilgrimage, an old man of eighty-one: his son Ellis died the same year, as also did William Roper, his life-long friend. His son, Jasper, survived till 1597-8, whilst Elizabeth Donne lived well into the next century, till 1631, dying only about three months before her celebrated son, the poet and Dean of St. Pauls.*

*This inquiry once reopened has already proved fruitful of results, and there are many signs that before long the materials for a really satisfactory biography will be available. Here, as I have already insisted, I can but barely refer to a small portion of the new evidence even now to hand, and reiterate that research is proceeding actively in several directions.*

JOHN S. FARMER.



















Οὐδὲν ἄλλοτερον ἢ παρὰ  
εἰδέναι

# A play of loue,

## A newe and a

mery enterlude concerning plea-  
sure and payne in loue,

made by Iohn  
Heywood.

Thomas . . . Skiffmgto  
The players  
names.

A man a louer not beloued.

A woman beloued not louyng.

A man a louer and beloued.

The byse nother louer noz beloued.

W

R















The louer not beloued.

**I** O spz, who so that loketh here for curtesy  
And seth me seme as one pretending none  
But as vnthought vppon thus sodenly  
Approcheth the myddys amonge you euerychone  
And of you all seyth nought to any one.  
May thynke me rewlde perceyving of what soyte  
ye seme to be, and of what stately po:te.

But I beseeche you in most humble wyse  
To omytte dyspleasure and pardon me  
My maner is to muse and to deuylse  
So that some tyme my selfe may cary me  
My selfe knowyth not where, and I asure ye  
So hath my selfe done nowe, for our lord wot  
where I am, or what ye be, I knowe not.

O: whence I cam, or whyther I shall  
All this in maner as vnknowen to me  
But eyn as fortune guydeth my fote to sale  
So wander I, yet where so euer I be  
And whom o: howe many so euer I se  
As one person to me is euerychone  
So euery place to me but as one

And for that one persone euery place seke I  
which one ones founde I fynde of all the rest  
Not one myssyng, and in the contrary  
That one absent, though that there were here prest  
All the creatures lyuyng most and lest  
yet lackyng her I shulde and euer shall  
Be as alone syns she to me is all

And alone is she without comparyson  
Consernyng the gostys gryn by nature  
In fauour faynes and pozte as of person  
No lyfe beryth the lyke of that creature  
No: no tonge can attayne to put in bze  
Her to dyscryue, for howe can wo:des expres  
That thyng the full wherof no thought can ges.

And as it is thyng inestymable  
To make repozte of her betwy fully  
So is my loue towarde her vnable  
To be reportyd as who seyth ryghtly

A. li. For my



For my soole seruyce and loue to that lady  
Is gyuen vnder such haboundant fashyon  
That no tonge therof can make ryght relashyon.

Wherin I suppose this well supposed  
Unto you all, that syns she perceyuyng  
As much of my loue as can be dysclofed  
Curn of very ryght in recompensyng  
She ought for my loue agayne to be louyng  
For what more ryght to graunt when loue loue requireth  
Then loue for loue, when loue nought els desyareth

But eyn as farre turs as other wyse then so  
Stande I in case in maner desperate  
No tyme can tyme my sewt to ease my wo  
Before none to etely and all tymes els to late  
Thus tyme out of tyme mystymeth my rate  
For tyme to byyng tyme to hope of any grace  
That tyme tymyth no tyme in any tyme or place.

Wherby tyll tyme haue tyme so farre extyncte  
That deth may determyne my lyfe thus dedly  
No tyme can I reste alas I am so lyncete  
To greues both so greate and also many  
That by the same I say and wyll verysy  
Of all paynes the moste incomparable payne  
Is to be a louer not loupd agayne.

The woman belouyd not lo-  
uyng entreth.

Belouyd not louyng.

Sy; as touchyng those wordes of comparyson  
whiche ye haue seyd and wolde seme to verysy  
If it may please you to stande therupon  
Hearpyng and answerpyng me paciently  
I doubt not by the same incontynently  
your selfe to see by wordes that shall ensue  
The contrary of your wordes verysyed for true.

Louer not loured

Fayre lady pleasyth it ydu to repayre nere  
And in this cause to shewe cause reasonable  
wherby cause of refoymacyon may appere  
Of reason I muste and wylbe refoymable  
well syns ye ppretende to be confymable  
To reason, in auoydyng circumstance  
Wrefely by reason I shall the truthe auounce.

Louyd not louyng

ye be



ye be a louer no whyt loupd agayne  
And I am loupd of whom I loue nothyng  
Then standyth our question betwene these twayne  
Of loupng not loupd, or loupd not loupng  
which is the case moſte paynfull in ſufferng  
wherto I ſaye that the moſte payne doth moue  
To thoſe beloupd of whome they can not loue

**Louer not loupd.** Thoſe wordes approued lo, myght make a chaunge  
Of myne opinion / but verely  
The caſe as ye put it I thynke moze ſtraunge  
Then true, for though the beloupd party  
Can not loue agayne, yet poſſyblly  
Can I not thynke, nor I thynke neuer ſhall  
That to be loupd can be any payne at all.

**Beloupd not loupng.** That reaſon perceyvd and receyvd for trouthy  
From proper comparſon ſholde clere confounde me  
Betwene payne & no payne, no ſuch comparſon growth  
Then or I can on comparſon grounde me  
To proue my caſe paynefull ye haue fyrſt bounde me  
To which ſyns ye dyvye me by your denyall  
Marke what enſueth befoze ſerther tryall.

I ſaye I am loupd of a certayne man  
whom for no ſewt I can fauour agayne  
And that haue I tolde hym ſyns his ſewt began  
A thouſand tymes but euery tyme in bayne  
For neuer ſeaſeth his tonge to complayne  
And euer one tale whiche I neuer can flee  
For euer in maner where I am is he.

Nowe if you to here one thyng euery where  
Contrary to your appetyte ſholde be led  
were it but a mouſe lo ſholde pepe in your ere  
Or alway to harpe on a cruſt of bryed  
Howe coulde you lyke ſuch harpyng at your hed

**Loupng not loupd.** Somewhat dyspleaſaunt it were I not deny  
**Loupd not loupng.** Then ſomewhat paynefull as well ſeyd ſay I

Dyspleaſure and payne be thynges ioynntly anert  
For as it is dyspleaſaunt in payne to be  
So it is paynefull in dyspleaſure to be vert  
Thus by dyspleaſure in payne ye confeſſe me  
wherby ſyns ye part of my payne do ſee  
In my ſerther payne I ſhall nowe declare

A.iii. That



That payne by whyche with your payne I compare.

Smale were the quantyte of my paynfull smerte  
yf hys iangelynge perceyde no further then myne erys  
But thorough myne erys dyrectly to myne harte  
perceyth his wordys eyn lyke as many spetys  
By whyche I haue spent so many and suche terys  
That were they all red as they be all whyte  
The blood of my harte had be gone or thys quyte

And almoste in case as though it were gone  
Am I except hys setwt take end shortly  
For it doth lyke me eyn lyke as one  
Shold offer me seruyce most humbly  
wyth an axe in hys hande, contynually  
Beseechynge me gentylly that thys myght be sped  
To graunte hym my good wyll to stryke of my hed

I alledge for generall thys one symplytude  
Auoydynge reher sale of paynes partyculer  
To abreuete the tyme and to exclude  
Surplusage of wordes in thys our mater  
By whyche ensauple yf ye consydere  
Ryghtly my case at lest wylse ye may see  
My payne as paynfull as your payne can bee.

And yet for shorter end put case that your payne  
were oft tymes more sharpe and soze in degre  
Then myne ys at any tyme yet wyl I proue playne  
My payne at lenght suffycient to match ye  
whiche profe to be true your selfe shall agre  
yf your affectyon in that I shall respyght  
May suffer your reason to vnderstande ryght

you stand in plesure haupng your loue in syght  
And in her absens hope of syght agayne  
Keepth mooste tymes possessyon of some delyght  
Thus haue pou oft tymes some way ease of payne  
And I neuer no way for when I do remaine  
In hys presens, in dedly payne I soloyne  
And absent, halfe ded in feare of hys retourne

Byns presens no; absens absenteth my payne  
But alway the same to me is present  
And that by presens and hope of presens agayne  
Ther doth appere myche of your tyme spent

Out of











Out of payne, me thynke this consequent  
That my payne may well by meane of the length  
Compare with your shorter payne of more strength

**Louer not loued.**

Maystres if your long payne be no stronger  
Then is your longe reason agaynst my shorter payne  
ye lacke no lyklyhod to lye much longer  
Then he that wolde stryke of your hed so fayne  
yet lest ye wolde note me your wordes to dysdayne  
I am content to agree for a season  
To graunt and enlarge your latter reason

Amptte by her presens halfe my tyme pleasaunt  
And all your tyme as paynesfull as in case can be  
yet your payne to be most, reason wyl not graunt  
And for ensample I put case that ye  
Stood in colde water all a day to the kne  
And I halfe the same day to myd leg in the fyer  
wolde ye chaunge places with me for the dryer

**Loued not loupng.**

**Louer not loued.**

Nay that wolde I not be ye assuered  
Forsooth and my payne aboue yours is as yll  
As fyre aboue water thus to be endewred  
Came my payne but at tymes and yours contynue styll  
yet shold myne many weys to whome can skyll  
Shewe yours, in comparyson betwene the twayne  
Shantly able for a shadowe to my payne

Felt ye but one pang such as I fele many  
One pang of dyspayre, or one pang of desyre  
One pang of one dyspleasaunt loke of her eye  
One pang of one worde of her mouth as in yre  
Or in restraynt of her loue which I requyre  
One pang of all these felt ones in all your lyfe  
Sholde quayle your opinyon and quench all our stryfe

which panges I say admytted short as ye lyst  
And all my tyme besyde pleasaunt as ye please  
yet coulde not the shortnes the sharpnes so resyst  
The percyng of my harte in the lest of all these  
But much it ouermatheth all your dyslease  
For no whyt in effecte is your case dyspleasaunt  
But to deny a thyng which ye lyst not to graunt

Or to here a fewter by dayly peticyon  
In humble maner as wylt can deuyse

**Requyre**



Requyre a theng so standyng in condycyon  
As no porcyon of all his enterpryse  
Without your consent can spede in any wyse  
This sewt thus attempted neuer so long  
Doubt ye no deth tyll your payne be moze strong

Howe syng in this mater betwene vs dysputed  
Myne admyttance of your wordes notwithstanding  
I haue thus fully your part confuted  
What can ye say nowe I come to denyng  
your pynnyple, graunted in my fozeleapeng  
which was this, by the presens of my lady  
I graunted you halfe my tyme spent pleasauntly

Although myne affeccyon ledyth me to consent  
That her selbe presens is my relesse onely  
yet as in reason appereth all my toymment  
Byed by her presens and marke this cause why  
Before I sawe her I felt no malydy  
And syngs I sawe her I neuer was fre  
From thwayne the greatest paynes that in loue be

Delyre is the fyrst vpon my fyrst syght  
And despayre the nexte vpon my fyrst sewt  
For vpon her fyrst answere hope was put to flyght  
And neuer came syngs in place to dysplewt  
Howe byngeth then her presens to me any frewt  
For hopeles and helpeles in flames of delyre  
And droppes of despayre I smolder in fyre

These thwayne beyng endeles syngs they began  
And both by the presens of her wholly  
Begon and contynued, I wonder if ye can  
Speke any worde moze, but yelde ymmedyately  
For had I no mo paynes but these, yet clerely  
A thousande tymes moze is my grefe in these thwayne  
Then yours in all the case by which ye complayne

Loued not lounyng.

That is as ye say but not as I suppose  
For as the treuth is, which your selfe myght se  
By reasons that I coulde and wolde dysclose  
Saying that I see such parcalyte  
On your parte, that we shall neuer agre  
Unlesse ye wyll admyt some man indyfferent  
Indyfferently to heare vs, and so gyue iudgement.

Agred,











**Louer not loued:** Agred, for though the knowledge of all my payne  
Gale my payne no whyt yet shall it declare  
Great cause of abasement in you to complayne  
In counterfet paynes with my payne to compare  
But here is no iudge mete, we must seke elles where

**Louyd not loupng.** I holde me content the same to condyscende  
Please it you to set forth and I shall attend.

Here they go both out and the louer be-  
louyd entreteth with a songe.

**Louer belouyd:** By comen experyence who can deny  
Inpossibyltyte for man to showe  
His inward entent, but by sygnes outwardly  
As wytyng, speche, or countenance, wherby doth growe  
Outwarde perceyvinge inwardly to knowe  
Of euery secrecy in mans brest wrought  
From man vnto man the effecte of eche thought

These thynges well weyd in many thynges shewe nede  
In our outwarde sygnes to shewe vs so that playne  
Accordyng to our thoughtes/wordes and sygnes procede  
For in outwarde sygnes where men are sene to fayne  
What credence in man to man may remayne  
Mans inward mynde with outward sygnes to fable  
May sone be moze comen than comendable.

Much are we louers then to be commendyd  
For loue his apparence dyssembleth in no wyse  
But as the harte felyth lyke sygnes alway pretendyd  
Who fayne in apparence are loues mortall enmyes  
As in dyspayr of speede who that can myght deuyse  
Or hauyng graunt of grace can shewe them as moyners  
Such be no louers but eyn very skorners.

The true louers harte that can not obteyne  
Is so tormentyd that all the body  
Is euermoze so compelde to complayne  
That soner may the sufferer hyde the fury  
Of a feruent feuer, then of that malady  
By any power humayne he possyble may  
Hyde the lesse payne of a thousande I dare say.

And he who in loupng hath lot to suche lucke.  
That loue for loue of his loue be founde  
Shalbe of power eyn as easely to plucke  
The mone in a momet with a synger to grounde

B. I. As of



As of his ioy to enclose the rebounde  
But that the reflexion therof from his harte  
To his beholders shall shyne in eche parte

Thus be a louer in ioy or in care  
All though wyl and wyt his estate wolde hyde  
yet shall his semblaunce as a dyale declare  
Howe the clocke goeth which may be well applyed  
In abygement of circumstance for a guyed  
To leade you in fewe wordes by my byhauour  
To knowe me in grace of my ladyes fauour.

For being a louer as I am in dede  
And therto dysposyd thus pleasauntly  
Is a playne apparence of my such spede  
As I in loue coulde wylsh and vndoubtedly  
My loue is requyted so iouyngly  
That in euery thyng that may delyght my mynde.  
My wyt can not wythe it so well as I fynde

which thyng at full consydered, I suppose  
That all the whole worlde must agree in one voyce  
I being beloued as I nowe dysclose  
Of one being chiefe of all the hole choyce  
Must haue incomparable cause to reioyce  
For the hest pleasure that man may obtayne  
Is to be a louer beloued agayne

#### Another louer no: loued entreth

No louer no: loued.	Nowe god you good eyn mayster woodcock
Louer loued.	Cometh of rudenesse or lewdenesse that mock
No louer no: loued.	Come wherof it shall ye come of such stock
Louer loued.	That god you good eyn mayster woodcock.
No louer no: loued.	This losell by lyke hath lost his wyt
	Nay nay mayster woodcock not a whyt
	I haue knowen you for a woodcock or this
	Or els lyke a woodcock I take you a mys
	But though for a woodcock ye deny the same
	yet shall your wyt wytnes you mete for that name.
Louer loued.	Howe soe
No louer no: loued.	Thus so.
	I do perceyue by your formate proces.
	That ye be a louer wherto ye confes
	your selfe beloued in as louyng wyse
	As by wyt and wyl ye can wythe to deuyse

Conclu











Concludyng therein determinately  
 That of all pleasures pleasaunt to the body  
 The hyest pleasure that man may obtayne  
 Is to be a louer beloued agayne  
 In which conclusyon before all this flock  
 I shall proue you playne as wyse as a woodcock  
 Louer loued. And me thynke this woodcock is toznd on thy syde  
 Contrary to curtsy and reason to vse  
 Thus rudely to rayle oz any worde be tryed  
 In profe of thy parte, whereby I do refuse  
 To answere the same, thou canst not excuse  
 Thy folp in this, but if thou wilt say ought  
 Assay to say better for this sepyng is nought  
 No louer no: loued. Well syngs it is so that ye be dyscontent  
 To be called sole oz further matter be spent  
 Wyl ye gyue me leaue to call ye sole anone  
 When your selfe percepueth that I haue proued you one  
 Louer loued. ye by my soule and wyl take it in good worth  
 No louer no: loued. No we by my fathers soule then wyl we euyr forth  
 That parte reherced of your sepyng oz this  
 Of all our debate the onely cause is  
 For where ye afore haue fastly affirmed  
 That such as be louers agayne beloued  
 Stande in most pleasure that to man may moue  
 That tale to be false truche shal truly proue  
 Louer loued. What folke aboue those lyue more pleasauntly  
 No louer no: loued. What folke mary euyr such folke as am I  
 Louer loued. Beyng no louer what man may ye be  
 No louer no: loued. No louer no by god I warraunt ye  
 I am no louer in such maner ment  
 As doth appere in this purpose present  
 For as touchyng women go where I shall  
 I am at one poynt with women all.  
 The smothest the synkest the smallest  
 The trestest / the trynest / the tallest /  
 The wysest / the wplyest / the wyldest /  
 The meriest / the manerlyest / the myldest /  
 The strangest / the strayghtest / the strongest /  
 The lustyest / the lest / oz the longest /  
 The rathest / the ruddiest / the roundest /  
 The sagest / the salowest / the soundest /  
 The copest / the curtest / the coldest /  
 The bysyest / the byghest / the boldest /  
 The thankfullest / the thynest / the thyckest /  
 The sayntlyest / the sewiest / the syckest /  
 Take these with all the reste and of euerychone  
 B.ii. So go



So god be my helpe I loue neuer one.  
 Louer loued. Then I beseeche the this one thyng tell me  
 How many women thyngest thou doth loue the  
 No louer no: loued. Syr as I be saued by ought I can proue  
 I am beloued euyng lyke as I loue  
 Louer loued. Then as appereth by those wordes reherced  
 Thou art nother louer no: beloued  
 No louer no: loued. Nother louer no: beloued that is euen true  
 Louer loued. Syns that is true I merueyll what can ensue  
 For proue of thy parte in that thou madest auaint  
 Of both our estates to proue thyn most plesaunt  
 No louer no: loued. My parte for most plesaunt may sone be gest  
 By my contynuall quyetd rest  
 Louer loued. Bepng no louer who may quyet be?  
 No louer no: loued. Nay bepng a louer what man is he  
 That is quyet  
 Louer loued. Mary I  
 No louer no: loued. Mary ye lye  
 Louer loued. what payens my frende ye are to hasty  
 If ye wyl patiently marke what I shall say  
 your selfe shall perceyue me in quyet alway  
 No louer no: loued. Say what thou wyl and I therein protest  
 To beleue no worde thou sayst most no: lest  
 Louer loued. Than we twayne shall talke both in bayne I see  
 Except our mater awardeb may be  
 By iudgement of some indifferent herer  
 No louer no: loued. Mary go thou and be an inquerer  
 And if thou canst byng one any thyng lykly  
 He shalbe admytted for my parte quykly  
 Louer loued. Nowe by the good god I graunt to agree  
 For be thou asswred it scoweth me  
 That thou shuldest compare in pleasure to be  
 Lyke me, and surely I promyse the  
 One way or other I wyl fynde redyes  
 No louer no: loued. Fynde the best and next way thy wyl can ges  
 And except your nobis for malous do nede ye  
 Make byese retorne a selyshyp spede ye.

The louer loued goth out.

No louer no: loued. My merueyll is no more then my care is small  
 what knaue this foole shall byng bepng not perciall  
 And yet be he false and a folysh knaue to  
 So that it be not to much a do  
 To byng a daw to here and speke ryght  
 I forse for no man the worth of a myte  
 And syns my doubt is so small in good spede

what











what shulde my studye be moze then my nede  
Tyll tyme I perceyue this woodcock commyng  
My parte hereof shulde pas euyn in mummyng  
Saying for pastyme syns I consyder  
He beyng a louer and all his mater  
To depende on loue and contrary I  
No louer, by which all such standyng by  
As fauour my parte, may feare me to wepke  
Agaynst the loupng of this louer to speyke  
I shall for your confort declare suche a story  
As shall perfectly plant in your memory  
That I haue knowledge in louers laws  
As depe as some dosyn of those dotyng daws  
which tolde all ye whose fancies styck nere me  
Shall knowe it causeles in this case to feare me  
For though as I shewe I am no louer now  
No: neuer haue ben yet shall I shewe yow  
How that I ones chaunced to take in hande  
To fayne my selfe a louer ye shall vnderstande  
Towarde such a swetyng as by swete sent sauour  
I knowe not the lyke in fashyon and fauour  
And to begyn  
At settyng in  
First was her skyn  
whyt smoth & thyn  
And euery bayne  
So blewe sene playne  
Her golden heate  
To see her weare  
Her weryng gere  
Alas I fere  
To tell all to you  
I shall vndo you  
Her eye so collyng  
Ech hart cōtrollng  
Her nose not long  
No: stode not wryng  
Her synger typps  
So clene she clpps  
Her rosy lpps  
Her chekes gosspps  
So fayre so ruddy  
It areth studdy  
The hole to tell  
It dyd excell  
It was so made  
B. iii. That



That euen the shade  
 At euery glade  
 wolde hartes invade  
 The paps so small  
 And rounde with all  
 The wast not myckyll  
 But it was tyckyll  
 The thygh the kne  
 As they wolde be of  
 But suche a leg  
 A louer wolde beg  
 To set eye on  
 But it is gon  
 Then syght of the fote  
 Ryft hartes to the rote  
 And last of all sent katheryns whele  
 was neuer so round pas was her hele  
 Alawt her harte and who coulde wyne it  
 As for her hele no holde in it  
 yet ouer that her beauty was so muche  
 In pleasaunt qualytes her graces were such  
 For dalyaunt pastaunce pas where she wolde  
 No greater dyfference betwene lede and golde  
 Then betwene the rest and her, and suche a wyt  
 That no wyght I wene myght matche her in it  
 If she had not wyt to set wyle men to scole  
 Then shall my tale proue me a starke sole  
 But in this matter to make you mete to ges  
 ye shall vnderstand that I with this maystres  
 I yll late acquaynted and for loue no whyt  
 But for my pleasure to approue my wyt  
 Howe I coulde loue to this trycker dysymble  
 who in dysymble was perfyte and nymble  
 For where or whan she lyst to geue a mock  
 She coulde and wolde do it beyonde the nock  
 wherin I thought that if I tryfed her  
 I shulde thereby lyke my wyt the better  
 And if she chaunced to trypp or tryse me  
 It sholde to learne wyt a good lesson be  
 Thus for my past tyme I dyd determyne  
 To mock or be mockt of this mockyng vermyne  
 For which herpresens I dyd fyrst obtayne  
 And that obtayned forthwith fell we twayne  
 In great acquayntaunce and made as good chere  
 As we had ben acquaynted twenty yere  
 And I through fayre flatteryng behauiour

Semyd









Semed anone so depe in her fauour  
That though the tyme then so farre passed was  
That tyme requyred vs asonder to pas  
yet could I no passport get of my swettyng  
Tyll I was full woed fo; the next dayes metynge  
Fo; seyrangs wherof I muste as she had  
Gyue her in gage best uell I there had  
And after mych myyth as our wyttes coulde deuyse  
we parted and I the nexte moone dyd aryle  
In tyme not to tymely suche tyme as I coulde  
I alowe no loue where slepe is not alowde  
I was o; I entred this iorney bowd  
Deckt very clenly but not very prowde  
But trym must I be, fo; slouenly lobeys  
Haue ye wot well no place amonge louers  
But I thus deckt at all poyntes poynt deuyce  
At doze were this trull was I was at a tryce  
wherat I knocked her pzelens to wyn  
wherwith it was opened and I was let yn  
And at my fyfte comynng my mynyon semed  
Very mery, but anone she myldeemed  
That I was not meryly dyspoled  
And so myght she thynke, fo; I disclosed  
No worde no; loke, but such as shewed as sadly  
As I in dede inwardly thought madly  
And so must I shewe fo; louers be in rate  
Sometymes mery but most tymes passyonate  
In geuyng thanks to her of ouer nyght  
we set vs downe an heuy couple in syght  
And therewithall I fet a sygh such one  
As made the forme shake which we both sat on  
wherupon she without more wordes spoken  
fell in wepyng as her harte shulde haue broken  
And I in secret laughyng so hartely  
That from myne eyes cam water plenteously  
Anone I turned with loke sadly that she  
My wepyng as watery as hers myght se  
which done these wordes anone to me she spake  
Alas dere harte what wyght myght vndertake  
To shewe one so sad as you this mornyng  
Beyng so mery as you last euenyng  
I so farre then the merper fo; you  
And without desert thus farre the sadder now.  
The selfe thyng quoth I which made me then gladd  
The selfe same is thyng that maketh me nowe sadde  
The loue that I owe you is origynale

Grounde



Grounde of my late ioy and present payne all  
And by this meane, loue is euermore lad  
Betwene two angels one good and one bad  
Hope and drede which two be alway at stryfe  
Which one of them both with loue shall reule most ryfe  
And hope that good angell fyrst parte of last nyght  
Draue drede that bad angell out of place quight  
Hope sware I sholde streyght haue your loue at ones  
And drede this bad angell sware bloud and bones  
That if I wan your loue all in one howre  
I sholde lose it all agayne in thre or foure  
Wherin this good angell hath lost the mastery  
And I by this bad angell won this agony  
And be ye seuer I stande nowe in such case  
That if I lacke your contynued grace  
In heuyn/hell/or perth / there is not that he  
Saue onely god that knoweth what shall come on me  
I loue not in rate all the common flock  
I am no fayner nor I can not mock  
Wherfore I beseeche you that your rewarde  
May wytnesse that ye do my truthe regarde  
By as touchyng mockyng quoth she I am seuer  
Ye be to wyle to put that here in bre  
For nother gyue I cause why ye so shulde do  
Nor nought coulde ye wyne that way wurth an old sho  
For who so that mocketh shall surely stur  
This olde prouerbe mockum moccabitur  
But as for you I thynke my selfe assured  
That very loue hath you hyther aleured  
For which quoth she let hope hop by agayne  
And baynquysh dzed so that it be in bayne  
To dzed or to doubt but I in euery thyng  
As cause gyueth cause wylbe your owne derlyng  
Swete harte quoth I after stormy colde smertes  
warm wordes i warm louers byng louers warm hartes  
And so haue your wordes warmed my harte eyn nowe  
That dzedles and doubtles now must I loue you  
Anone there was I loue you and I loue you  
Louely we louers loue eche other  
I loue you and I for loue loue you  
My louely lounyng loued brother  
Loue me, loue the, loue we, loue he, loue she,  
Depper loue apparent in no twayne can be  
Mute ouer the eares in loue and felt no ground  
Had not swymmyng holpe in loue I had byn dround  
But I swam by the shore the bauntage to kepe  
To mock









To mock her in loue semyng to swym more depe  
Thus contynued we day by day  
Tyll tyme that a moneth was passed away  
In all the which tyme suche awaite she toke  
That by no meane I myght ones set one loke  
Upon any woman in company  
But strenght way she set the synger in the eye  
And by that same aptnes in ielously  
I thought sewer she loued me perfectly  
And I to shewe my selfe in lyke lounyng  
Dyssembled lyke chere in all her lyke lokyng  
By this and other lyke thynges then in hande  
I gaue her mockes me thought aboute a thousand  
Wherby I thought her owne tale lyke a but  
Stack to her owne back mockum moccabitur  
And vpon this I fell in deuplyng  
To bynge to ende this ydell dysgyslyng  
Wherupon sodaynly I stalle away  
And when I had ben absent halfe a day  
My harte mysgaue me by god that bought me  
That if she myst me where I thought she sought me  
She sewer wolde be madde by loue that she ought me  
Wherin not loue, but pety so wrought me  
That to returne anone I bethought me  
And so returned tyll chaunce had brought me  
To her chamber doze and hard I knocked  
Knock softe quoth one who the same vnlocked  
An auncient wyse woman who was neuer  
From this sayd swetyng but about her euer  
Mother quoth I howe doth my dere darlyng  
Dede wretch cryed she euen by thyne absentynge  
And without mo wordes the doze to her she shyrt  
I standyng without halfe out of my wyrt  
In that this woman sholde dye in my faulte  
But syns I coulde in there by none assawte  
To her chamber wyndow I gat about  
To see at the lest way the coys layd out  
And there lokyng in by godes blessed mother  
I sawe her naked a bed with an other  
And with her bedfelowe laught me to scoyne  
As merly as euer she laught befoyne  
The which when I saw, and then remembryd  
The terryble wordes that mother Brendryd  
And also bethought me of euery thyng  
Shewed in this woman true loue betokenyng  
My selfe to see serued thus prately



To my selfe I laughed eyn hattely  
 With my selfe consydering to haue had lyke spede  
 If my selfe had ben a louer in dede.  
 But nowe to make som matter wherby  
 I may take my leue of my loue honestly  
 Swete hart quoth I ye take to much vpon ye  
 No more then becomes me knowe thou well quoth she  
 But thou hast takyn to much vpon the  
 In takyn that thou toke in hande to mock me  
 wherin from begynnyng I haue sene the ict  
 Lyke as a foole myght haue iettyd in a net  
 Beleuyng hymselfe saue of hym selfe onely  
 To be perceyued of no lyuyng body  
 But well saw I thynne entent at begynnyng  
 was to bestow a mock on me at endyng  
 when thou laughedest dyspmyllyng a wepyng hart  
 Then I with wepyng eyes played eyn the lyke part  
 wherwith I brought in moccum moccabitur  
 And yet thou beyng a long snowted cur  
 Coude no whyt smell that all my meanyng was  
 To gyue mock for mock as now is come to pas  
 which now thus passed if thy wyt be handsome  
 May defende the from mockes in tyme to come  
 By clappng fast to thy snowt every day  
 Moccum moccabitur for a nosegay  
 wherwith she start vp and thyt her wyndowe to  
 which done I had no more to say nor do  
 But thynke my selfe or any man elles a foole  
 In mockes or wyles to set women to scoole  
 But howe to purpose wherfose I began  
 All though I were made a fole by this woman  
 Concernyng mockyng yet both this tale approue  
 That I am well sene in the arte of loue  
 for I entendyng no loue but to mock  
 yet coude no louer of all the hole flock  
 Circumstaunce of loue dysclose more nor better  
 Then dyd I the substaince beyng no greater  
 And by this tale afore ye all may see  
 All though a louer as well loued be  
 No loue can deuyse hym for pleasaunt spede  
 yet two dyspleasures telously and dyde  
 Is myght with loue wherby loue is a dynk mete  
 To gyue babes for women for it dynkth bytter swete  
 And as for this babe our louer in whose hed  
 By a fantasyk womne his opynion is bred  
 After one draught of this medlyn mynystred

In to









In to his brayne by my brayne aporntyd  
Reason shall so temper his opinion  
That he shall see it not worth an onyon  
And if he haue any other thyng to say  
I haue to conuynse hym euery way  
And syng my parte nowe doth thus well appere  
Be ye my parteners now all of good chere  
But sylence euery man vpon a payne  
For mayster woodcock is nowe come agayne.

**The louer loued entreteth**  
**Louer loued.** The olde sayng seyth he that seketh shall fynde  
which after long sekynge true haue I founde  
But for suche a fyndynge my selfe to bynde  
To such a sekynge as I was now bounde  
I wolde rather seke to lesse twenty punde  
Howe be it I haue sought so farre to my payne  
That at the last I haue founde and brought twayne

**The louer not loued, and loued**  
**hot lounge entreteth.**

**No louer no: loued.** Come they a horse backe

**Louer loued.** Nay they come a fote  
which thou myght see here; but for this great myst

**No louer no: loued.** By vs and yet see I thou blynde balde cote  
That one of those twayne myght ryde if he lyst

**Louer loued.** How

**No louer no: loued.** Mary for he ledyth a nag on his his fyte  
Maysters ye are welcome, and welcome ye be

**Loued not lounge.** Nay welcome be ye, for we were here before ye

**No louer no: loued.** ye haue ben here before me before now

And nowe I am here before you

And nowe I am here behynde ye

And nowe ye be here behynde me

And nowe we be here euen both to gether

And nowe be we welcome euen both hyther

Syns nowe ye fynde me here with curtsy I may

Byd you welcome hyther as I may say

But setting this asyde, let vs set a broche

The mater wherefore ye hyther approche

wherin I haue hope that ye both wyll be

Good vnto me, and especyally ye

For I haue a mynde that euery good face

Hath euer some pyte of a poore mans case

Being as myne is a mater so ryght

That a sole may iudge it ryght at fyrst syght

**Louer not loued.** Syr ye may well doubt howe my wyte wyll serue

But my wyll from ryght shall neuer swaue



Loued not loupng.

For myne, and as ye sew for helpe to me

Lyke sewt haue I to sewe for helpe to ye

For as much nebe haue I of helpe as you

No louer no: loued.

I thynke well that dere hart but tell me how

Loued not loupng.

The case is this, ye twayn seme in pleasure

And we twayn in payne which payne doth procure

By compayson betwene hym and me

As great a conspyct which of vs twayn be

In greatest payne, as is betwene ye twayne

Whiche of you twayne in most pleasure doth remaine

Wherin we somewhat haue here debated

And both to tell trueth so gredely grated

Vpon affection eche to our owne syde

That in conclusion we must nedes proude

Some such as wolde and coulde be indifferēt

And we both to stande vnto that iudgement

Wherupon for lacke of a iudge in this place

We sought many places and yet in this case

No man coulde we mete that medyll wyll or can

Tyll tyme that we met with this gentylman

Whome in lyke errand for lyke lacke of ayd

Was dyuen to desyre our iudgement he sayd

Louer loued

Forsoth it is I promysing playne

They twayn betwene vs twayn geuyng iudgemēt playne

We twayn betwene them twayn shuld iudge ryght agayne

No louer no: loued.

That promysse to performe I not dysdayne

For touchyng ryght as I am a ryghteous man

I wyll geue you as muche ryght as I can

Loued not loupng.

Nothyng but ryght desyre I you among

I wyllnyngly wyll nother geue nor take w:onge

No louer no: loued.

Ray in my conspens I thynke by this boke

Your conspens wyll take nothyng that cometh a croke

For as in conspens what euer ye do

Ye nothyng do but as ye wolde be done to

O hope of good ende, o Mary mother

Marystres one of vs may nowe helpe a nother

But sy: I pray you some mater declare

Wherby I may knowe in what grefe ye arre

Louer not loued.

I am a louer not loued which playne

Is dayly not dolefull but my dedly payne

No louer no: loued.

A louer not loued haue ye knyt that knot

Louer not loued.

ye forsoth

No louer no: loued.

Forsoth ye be the more sot

Nowe maystres I hartely besech ye

Tell me what maner case your case may be

Loued not loupng.

I am beloued not loupng wherby

I am not in payne but in toymentry









No louer no: loued.  
Loued not loupng.

No louer no: loued.

Is this your tormentour god turne hym to good  
Say there is another man one me as wood  
As this man on a nother woman is  
ye thynke them both mad and so do I by iys  
So mot I thypue but who that lyst to marke  
shall percepue here a praty peyce of warke  
Let vs fall somewhat in these partes to skaunng  
Loupng not loued, loued not loupng  
Loued and loupng, not loupng no: loued  
wyl ye see these foure partes well ioynd  
Loupng not loued, and loued not loupng  
Those partes can ioyne in no maner rekenng  
Loupng and loued, loued no: louer  
These partes in ioyng in lykewyse dyffer  
But in that ye loue ye twayne ioynd be  
And beyng not loued ye ioyne with me  
And beyng no louer with me ioyne the  
And beyng beloued with her ioyne ye  
Had I a ioyner with me ioynd ioyntly  
we ioyners shulde ioyne ioynt to ioynt quckly  
For fyrst I wolde parte these partes in fleshes  
And ones departed these parted pees  
Parte and parte with parte I wolde so partlyke parte  
That eche part shulde parte with quyet harte

Louer not loued.

By: syngs it passeth your power that part to play  
Let passe, and let vs partly nowe assay  
To byngne some parte of that purpose to ende  
For which all partyes yet in bayne attende

Loued not loupng.

I do desyre the same and that wetwayne  
May fyrst be harde that I may knowe my payne

Louer loued.

I graunt for my parte by fayth of my body  
why where the deuyll is this hozel on nody

No louer no: loued.

I neuer syt in iustyce but euer more  
I vse to be shryuen a lyttell before  
And nowe syngs that my confessyon is done  
I wyl depart and come take penaunce sone  
when cōscyens prycketh cōscyens must be sercht by god  
In dyschargyng of cōscyens o: els gods forbod  
which maketh me mete when cōscyēs must come in place  
To be a iudge in euery comen case  
But who may lyke me his auausement auaint  
Nowe am I a iudge and neuer was sertain  
which ye regarde not much by ought that I see  
By any reuerence that ye do to me  
Say yet I prayse women when great men go by  
They crouch to the grounde loke here how they ly

C. iii. They



They shall haue a beck by saynt Antony  
 But alas good maystres I crye you mercy  
 That you are vnianswered but ye may see  
 Though two tales at ones by two eares hard may be  
 yet can not one mouth two tales at ones answer  
 which maketh you tary but in your mater  
 Syns ye by hast in haupng ferdest home  
 wolde fyrst be sped of that for which ye come  
 I graunt as he graunted your wyl to fulfyll  
 you twayne to be harde fyrst, begyn when you wyl  
**Louer not loued.** As these twayne vs tweyn now graunt fyrst to breke  
 Syns twayn to be harde, at ones can not speke  
 I now desyre your graunt, that I may open  
 fyrst tale which now is at poynt to be spoken  
 which I craue no whyt my parte to auauunce  
 But with the pyth to auoyde circumstance  
**Loued not loupng.** Speke what and whan so euer it please you  
 Tyl reason wyl me, I wyl not dysplese you  
**Louer not loued.** Syns other here is a very weyke brayne  
 O she hath if any a very weyke payne  
 For I put case that my loue I her gaue  
 And that for my loue, her loue I dyd craue  
 For which though I dayly few day by day  
 what losse or payne to her if she say nay  
**No louer no: loued.** yes by saynt Mary so the case may stande  
 That some woman had leuer take in hande  
 To ryde on your errand on hundred myle  
 Then to say nay one Vater noster whyle  
**Louer not loued.** If ye on her parte any payne desyre  
 which is the more paynefull her payne or myne  
**No louer no: loued.** your payne is most if she say nay and take it  
 But if that she say nay and forsake it  
**Louer not loupng.** Then is her payne a great way the greater  
 Syn ye alledge this nay in this mater  
 As though my denyal my sewter to loue  
 where all or the most payne that to me doth moue  
 wherein the treuth is a contrary playne  
 For though to ofte spekyng one thyng be a payne  
 yet is that one worde the full of my hoppng  
 To byng his hoppng to dyspayre at endyng  
 Thus is this nay which ye take my most grefe  
 Though it be paynefull yet my most relefe  
 But my most payne is all an other thyng  
 which though ye forget or hyde by dyslymplyng  
 I partly shewed you, but all I coude no: can  
 But maysters to you with payne of this man

That









That payne that I compare is partly this  
I am loued of one whome the treuth is  
I can not loue, and so it is with me  
That from hym in maner I neuer can flet  
And euery one worde in lewt of his parte  
Appes through myne eares and cons through my harte  
His gasfull loke so pale that bnneth I  
Dare for myne eares cast towarde hym an eye  
And whan I do that eye my thought presentyth  
Streight to my hart and thus my payne augmentyth  
One tale so ofte alas and so impoxtune  
His exclamacions somtyme on fortune  
Sometyme on hym selfe some tyme vpon me  
And for that thyng that if my deth sholde be  
Brought streight in place except I were content  
To graunt the same, yet coulde I not assent  
And he seying this yet sealyth not to craue  
what deth coulde be worse then this lyfe that I haue

**Louer not loued.**

This tale to purpose purpoxteth no more  
But syght and hearpyng complaynt of his toye  
Is onely the grete that ye do susteyne

Alas tender hart spns ye dye in payne

This payne to perceyue by syght and hearpyng  
Howe coulde you lyue to knowe our payne by felyng

Marke well this question and answer as ye can

A man that is hanged o: that mans hangman  
whych man of those twayne suffereth most payne

**Loued not loupyng.** He that is hanged

**No louer nor loued.** By the masse it is so playne

**Louer not loued.** well sayd for me, for I am the sufferer

And ye the hangman vnderstande as it were

These cases vary in no maner a thyng

Sauyng this serues in this mannes hangpyng

Comely is done agaynst the hangmans wyll

And ye of delyghtfull wyll, poue louer kyll

**Loued not loupyng.** Of delyghtfull wyll, nay that is not so

As ye shall perfectly perceyue o: we go

But of those at whose hangpyng haue hangmen by

**No louer nor loued.** How many haue ye knowen hang wyllpyngly

**Louer not loued.** Nay neuer one in his lyfe by lady

In this is your case from our case doth vary

For ye that loue where loue wyll take no place

And not onely vncompelled without a playne case

But fore agaynst her wyll your selfe ye endowe

For spns your wyll to loue oyd you procure

**And**



And with that wyll, ye put that loue in bye  
And nowe that wyll, by wyt seth loue such payne  
As wytty wyll wolde wyll loue to refrayne  
And ye by wyll that loue in eche condiction  
To extyng, may be your owne phesicion  
Except ye be a foole or wolde make me one  
What seyng cowd set a good ground to spt on  
To make any man thynke your payne thus strong  
Makynge your owne salue your owne soze thus long

Louer not loupd.

Maystres much parte of this proces purposed  
Is matter of truth truely dysclosed  
My wyll without her wyll brought me in loue  
Which wyll without her wyll doth make me houe  
Upon her grace to see what grace wyll proue  
But where ye say my wyll may me remoue  
As wel from her loue, as wyll brought me to it  
That is false my wyll can not wyll to do it  
My wyl as farre therin out weyth my power  
As a sow of led out weyth a sallowe flowre

Loued not loupng.

your wyl out weyth your power the where is your wylt  
I merueyll that euer ye wyll speke it

Louer loued.

Nay merueyll ye maystres therat no whyt  
For as farre as this poynt may stretch in verdyt  
I am clerely of this mans opinion

No louer no: loued.

And I contrary with this mynion

Louer loued.

Then be we come to a demurrer in lawe

No louer no: loued.

Then be ye come from a woodcock to a daw  
And by god it is no small connyng brother  
For me to turne one wylde foole to a nother

Louer not loued.

Nay maysters I hartely pray you both  
Banyshe contencion tyll ye see howe this goth  
I wyll repet and answer her tale forthwith  
The pyth for your part wherof pretendyth  
A profe for your payne to be more then myne  
In that my wyll not onely dyd me enclyne  
To the same, but in the same by the same wyll  
I wyllynge wyll to contynue styll

And as wyll brought me and kepeth in this bey

When I wyll ye say, wyll wyll byng me away

Concludyng therby that if my payne were

As great as yours that I sholde suerly bere

As great and good wyll to flee my loue thus ment

As do ye your sewters presens to absent

Loued not loupng.

This tale sheweth my tale persepued euery dell

Louer not loued.

Then for entre to answer it as well

Answer this put case ye as depely now.

Dyd









Dyd loue your louer as he doth loue you  
 Shulde not that loupng suppose ye redyes  
 That payne whiche lack of loupng doth posses  
 yes  
**Loued not loupng.**      Syns loue gyuen to hyme gyueth your selfe ease, than  
**Louer not loued.**      Except ye loue payne, why loue ye not this man  
**Loued not loupng.**      Loue hym nay as I sayd must I strepght chose  
 To loue hym or els my hed here to lose  
**Louer not loued.**      I knowe well I coulde not my lyfe to saue  
 with loupng wyll graunt hym my loue to haue  
 I thynke ye speke truely for wyll wyll not be  
 forced in loue wherfore the same to ye  
 Syns this is to you such dyfficulte  
 why not a thyng as dyfficult to me  
 To wyll the let of loue where wyll my loue hath set  
 As you to wyll to set loue where wyll is your let  
**Loued not loupng.**      well sayd and put case it as harde now be  
 for you to wyll to leue her, as for me  
 To loue hym, yet haue ye aboue me a meane  
 To learne you at length to wyll to leue loue cleane  
 which meane many thousandes of louers hath brought  
 From ryght feruent loupng to loue ryght nought  
 which long and oft approued meane is absens  
 wherto when ye wyll ye may haue lycens  
 whiche I craue and wyshe and can not obtayne  
 for he wyll neuer my presens restryne  
**Louer not loued.**      This is a medsyn lyke as ye wolde wyll me  
 for thyng to keue me the thyng that wolde kyll me  
 for presens of her, though I selde whan may haue  
 As soote the medsyn that my lyfe doth saue  
 her absens can I with as yll wyll wyll  
 As I can wyll to leue to loue her styll  
 Thus is this wyll brought in insydently  
 No ayde in your purpose worth taylor of a sty  
 And as concernyng our pryncypall mater  
 All that ye lay may be layd euen a water  
 I wonder that shame suffereth you to compare  
 with my payne, syns ye are dyuen to declare  
 That all your payne is but syght and hearyng  
 Of hym that as I do dyeth in payne felyng  
 O payne vpon payne what paynes I sustayne  
 No crafte of the deuyl can expresse all my payne  
 In this body no lym/loyn/lenow/noz beyne/  
 But martreth eche other, and this bryayne  
 These enmy of all by the inuentyng  
 Myne vnlawery selote to her dyscontentyng



My speakyng, my hearyng, my lokyng, my thynkyng  
In syttyng, in standyng, in wakyng, or wyntyng,  
what euer I do, or where euer I go

My bryne and my shap in all these do me wo

As for my senses eche one of all fyue

wondreth as it can to fele it selfe a lyue

And than hath loue gotten all in one bed

Hym selfe and his seruauntes to lodge in this hed

Wayne hope, dyspayre, drede, and audacite,

Hast, wast, lust without lkyng or lyberte

Dyligence, humylyte, trust, and ielousy,

Delyre, pacyent sufferauce, and constansy,

These with other in this hed lyke swarmes of bees

Styng in debatyng they? contraryetees

The venym wherof from this hed dystylleth

Downe to this brest and this hart it kylleth

All tymes in all places of this body

By this dystemperaunce thus dystempered am I

Sheueryng in colde and yet in hete I dye

Drownded in moysture parched perchement dye

**No louer nor loued.** Colde hote mozte dye all in all places at ones

May sy? this is an ageu for the nones

But or we gyue iudgement I must serch to bew

whether this euydens be false or trew

Nay stande styll your part shall proue neuer the wars

For by saynt sauour here is a whot ars

Let me fele your nose, nay fere not man be bolde

well though this ars be warme and this nose colde

yet these twayne by attozney brought in one place

Are as he seyth colde and whot both in lyke case

What payne brought is see how his dy lyps

Smake for more moyster of his warme moyst hypp

Breath out these eyes are dull but this nose is quycker

Here is most moyster, your breath smelleth of lycker

**Loued not louyng.** well syus ye haue opened in this tale tellyng

The full of your payne for speede to endyng

I shall in fewe wordes such one question dysclose

As if your answere gyue cause to suppose

The hole of the same to be answered at full

we nede no iudgement for yelde my selfe I wult

But case this man loued a woman such one

who were in his lkyng the thyng alone

And that his loue to her were not so myckyll

But her fancy towarde hym were as lyttyll

And that she byd her selfe so day and nyght

That selde tyme whan he myght come in her syght

And









And then put case that one to you loue dyd bere  
 A woman that other so vgly were  
 That eche kys of her mouth called you to gybbes fest  
 Or that your fancy abhorred her so at lest  
 That her presens were as swete to suppose  
 As one shulde present  
**No louer noꝝ loued.** A toꝛde to his nose  
**Loued not louyng.** ye in good sayth, wherto the case is this  
 That her spyttfull presens absent neuer is  
 Of these two cases if chaunce shulde dyue you  
 To chose one, which wolde ye chuse tell trowth now  
 what ye study  
**No louer noꝝ loued.** Tary ye be to gredy  
**Louer not loued.** Men be not lyke women alway redy  
**Loued not louyng.** In good soth to tell treuth of these cases twayne  
 which case is the wurst is to me vncertayne  
 Fyrst case of these twayne I put for your parte  
 And by the last case apereth myne owne smarte  
 If they pꝛoced with this fyrst case of ours  
 Then is our mater vndoubtedly yours  
 And if iudgement passe with this last case in fyne  
 Then is the mater aslewedy myne  
 Syns by these cases our partes so do seme  
 That which is most paynesfull your selfe can not deme.  
 If ye nowe wyll all circumstaunce eschew  
 Make this question in these cases our yslew  
 And the payne of these men to abreyuate  
 Set all our other mater as frustrate  
**Louer not-loued.** Agreed  
**Loued not louyng.** Then further to abrydge your payne  
 Syns this our yslew apereth thus playne  
 As folke not doubtyng your consciens noꝝ connyng  
 we shall in the same let passe all resonyng  
 yeldyng to your iudgement the hole of my parte  
**Louer not loued.** And I lykewyse myne with wyll and good harte  
**No louer noꝝ loued** So lo make you low curtsly to me now  
 And streyght I wyll make as lowe curtsly to you  
 May stande ye nere the vpper ende I pray ye  
 For the nether ende is good ynough for me  
 your cases which enclude your grefe eche whyt  
 Shall dwell in this hed  
**Louer loued.** And in myne but yet  
 Or that we hereln our iudgement publysh  
 I shall desyre you that we twayne may synpsh  
 As farre in our mater towarde iudgement  
 As ye haue done in yours to the entent













Louer loued.

But my contentacion standeth in such thyng  
As I wolde fyrst wyshe if it went by wysyng  
Syr be ye contented euen as ye tell  
yet your contentacyon can nother excell  
Nor be compared egall to myne estate  
For touchyng contentacyon I am in rate  
As hyely contented to loue as ye se  
As ye to forbere loue can wyshe to be  
Had I no more to say in this argument  
But that I am as well as you content  
yet hath my parte nowe good approbacyon  
To match with yours euen by contentacyon  
But contentacion is not all the thyng  
That I for my loue haue in recompencyng  
Aboue contentacyon pleasures felyng  
Haue I so many, that no wyght lypnyng  
Can by any wyt or tonge the same reporte  
O the pleasaunt pleasures in our resorte  
After my beyng from her any whyther  
what pleasures haue we in comynyng to gyther  
Eche tap on the grounde towarde me with her fote  
Doth bathe in delyght my very harte rote  
Curry twynke of her alurynyng eye  
Receyueth my spirites euen thowowoutly  
Eche worde of her mouth not a preparatyue  
But the ryght medycyne of preseruatyue  
We be so toconde and ioyfully ioyned  
Her loue for my loue so currantly coynd  
That all pleasures yerthly the treuth to declare  
Are pleasures not able with ours to compare  
This mouth in maner receyueth no food  
Loue is the fedynyng that doth this body good  
And this hed dyspyseth all these eyes wyntyng  
Longer then loue doth kepe this harte thynkyng  
To dreame on my swete harte, loue is my feader  
Loue is my loyde, and loue is my leader  
Of all myne affayres in thought, worde, and dede,  
Loue is the Christs crosse that must be my spede

No louer no: loued.

By this I perceyue wel ye make rekenyng  
That loue is a goodly and a good thyng

Louer loued.

Loue good what yll in loue canst thou make apere

No louer no: loued.

yes I shal proue this loue at this tyme ment here  
In this mans case as yll as is the deuyll  
And in your case I shall proue loue more euyll  
what tormentry coulde all the deuylles in hell  
Deuyle to his payne that he doth not tell

D.iii. wha



what payne byngeth that body those deuyls in that hed  
 which mynysters alway by loue are led  
 He fryyth in fyre he drowneeth in drought  
 Eche parte of his body loue hath brought about  
 where eche to helpe other shulde be dyligent  
 They marter eche other the man to torment  
 without stynt of rage his paynes be so soze  
 That no fende may torment man in hell moze  
 And as in your case to proue that loue is  
 wurs than the deuyll my meanyng is this  
 Loue dystempereth hym by torment in payne  
 And loue dystempereth you as farre in ioy playne  
 your owne confession declareth that ye  
 Eate, drynke, or slepe eyn as lyttell as he  
 And he that lacketh any one of those thre  
 Be it by ioy or by payne clere ye see  
 Deth must be sequell howe euer it be  
 And thus are ye both brought by loues induccyon  
 By payne or by ioy to lyke poynt of dystruccyon  
 which poynt aproueth loue in this case past  
 Beyonde the deuyll in turmentry to haue a cast  
 For I trowe ye fynde not that the deuyll can fynde  
 To turment man in hell by any pleasaunt mynde  
 wherby as I sayd I say of loue styll  
 Of the deuyll and loue, loue is the moze yll  
 And at begynnyng I may say to you  
 If god had sene as much as I say now  
 Loue had ben Lucyfer and doubt ye no whyt  
 But experyens now hath taught god such wyt  
 That if ought come at Lucyfer other then good  
 To whyp soules on the brych loue shalbe the blood  
 And sower he is one that can not lyue long  
 For aged folke ye wot well can not be strong  
 And an other thyng his phisic you doth ges  
 That he is infecte with the blak iawndes

Louer loued.

No ferther then ye be infecte with folye  
 For in all these wordes no worde can I espye  
 Such as for your parte any prose auoucheth

No louer nor loued.

For prose of my parte, no but it toucheth  
 The dysprose of yours for where you alledged  
 your parte aboue myne to be compared  
 By pleasures in which your dyspleasures are such  
 That ye eate, drynke, nor slepe, or at most not much  
 In lacke wherof my tale proueth playnly  
 Eche parte of your pleasure a turmentry  
 wherby your good loue I haue proued so euill

That









That loue is apparauntly worse then the deuyl  
 And as touchyng my parte there can aryse  
 No maner dyspleasures nor tomentyes  
 In that I loue not, nor am not loued  
 I moue no dyspleasures nor none to me moued  
 But all dyspleasures of loue fro me absent  
 By absens wherof I quyetly content  
**Louer loued.** Syr where ye sayd and thynke ye haue sayd wel  
 That my ioy by loue shall byng deth in sequell  
 In that by the same in maner I dysdayne  
 Fode and slepe, this prouerbe answereth you playne  
 Loke not on the meat, but loke on the man  
 Howe loke ye on me and say what ye can  
**No louer nor loued** Nay for a tyme loue may pusse by a thyng  
 But lackyng fode and slepe deth is the endyng  
**Louer loued** well syr tyll such tyme as deth approue it  
 This part of your tale may slepe euer whyt  
 And where ye by absent dyspleasure wolde  
 Match with my present pleasure ye seme more bolde  
 Then wylse, for those twayne be farre dyfferent sewer  
**No louer nor loued.** Is not absens of dyspleasure a pleasure  
**Louer loued.** yes in lyke rate as a post is pleased  
 which as by no meaner can be dysleased  
 By dyspleasure present so is it trew  
 That no pleasure present in it can ensew  
 Pleasures or dyspleasures felyng sensyblly  
 A post ye knowe well can not fele possyblly  
 And as a post in this case I take you  
 Concernyng the effecte of pleasure in hande now  
 For any felyng ye in pleasure indure  
 More then ye say ye fele in dyspleasure  
**No louer nor loued.** Syr though the effecte of your pleasure present  
 Be more pleasaunt then dyspleasure absent  
 yet howe compare ye with myne absent payne  
**Louer loued.** By present dyspleasures in which ye remaine  
**No louer nor loued.** My present dyspleasures I knowe none such  
**Louer loued.** knowe ye no payne by loue ytell nor much  
**No louer nor loued.** No  
 Then shall I shewe such a thyng in this purs  
 As shortly shall shewe herein your parte the wurs  
 Howe I pray god the deuyl in hell blynde me  
 By the masse I haue lefte my boke behynde me  
 I beseeche our lord I neuer go hens  
 If I wolde not rather haue spent forty pens  
 But syne it is thus I must go fetch it  
 I wyl not tary, a syr the deuyl stretch it



Louer loued. Farewell dawcock  
 No loue no; loued. Farewell woodcock  
 Louer loued. He is gone  
 Loued not loupng. Gone ye but he wyl come agayne anone  
 Louer loued. Say this nyght he wyl no more dysleafe you  
 Gyue iudgement hardely euen whan it please you  
 which done syth he is gone my selfe streyght shall  
 Ryghtoussly betwene you gyue iudgement fynall  
 But loyde what a face this sole hath set here  
 Tyll shame defaced his folly so clere  
 That shame hath shamfully in syght of you all  
 with shame dysuen hym hens to his shamefull fall  
 wherin all though I nought gayne by wynnnyng  
 That ought may augment my pleasure in loupng  
 yet shall I wyn therby a pleasure to see  
 That ye all shall see the mater pas with me  
 what though the profyte may lightly be lodyn  
 It greneth a man to be ouer trodyn  
 Say whan I saw that his wynnnyng must growe  
 By payne pretendyng in my parte to shewe  
 Then wylst I well the nody must cum  
 To do as he dyd o; stande and play mumi  
 No man/no woman/no chylde in this place  
 But I durst for iudgement trust in this case  
 All doubt of my payne by his profe by any meane  
 His connyng away hath nowe scrapt out cleane  
 werfore gyue iudgement and I shall retorne  
 In place hereby where my dere hart doth sojurne  
 And after salutacion betwene vs had  
 Such as is mete to make louers hartes glade  
 I shall to reioyce her in mety tydynges  
 Declare the hole rable of this fooles lesynges

Here the byse cometh in connyng sodenly aboute  
 the place among the audyens with a hye co-  
 pyn tank on his hed full of squybs fyred  
 cryeng water/water/fyre fyre/fyre/wa-  
 ter / water / fyre / tyll the fyre in the  
 squybs be spent.

Louer loued. water and fyre  
 No loue no; loued. Say water for fyre I meane  
 Louer loued. well thanked be god it is out nowe cleane  
 Howe cam it there  
 No loue no; loued. By as I was goyng  
 To fet my boke for which was my departyng  
 There chaunced in my way a house hereby

To fyre









To fyre which is burned pteously  
But meruelously the people do mone  
For a woman they say a goodly one  
A soloner whome in this house burned is  
And shoutyng of the people for helpe in this  
Made me runne thither to haue done some good  
And at a wyndowe therof as I stood  
I thrust in my hed and euyr at a flush  
Fyre flast in my face and so toke my bussh

Louer loued. what house?

No louer no; loued. A house paynted with red oker

Louer loued. Then bick hart alas why lyue I this day  
My dere harte is dystroyd lyfe and walth away

No louer no; loued. what man syt downe and be of good chere  
Gods body mayster woodcock is gone clere  
O mayster woodcock say; mot be fall ye  
Of ryght mayster woodcock I must nowe call ye  
Maystres stande you here afore and rubbe hym  
And I wyll stande here behynde and dubbe hym  
Nay the chyldre is a slepe ye nede not rock  
Mayster woodcock mayster wood wood woodcock  
where folke be fatte within a man must knock  
Is not this a pang trow ye beyonde the nock  
Speke mayster woodcock, speke parot I pray ye  
My leman your lady e; wyll ye see  
My lady your leman one bntertakes

Louer loued.

No louer no; loued. That worde I harde but yet I see her not  
No more do I mayster woodcock our lo;de wot

Louer loued. Unto that house where I dyd see her last  
I wyll seke to see her and if she be past  
So that to apere there I can not make her  
Then wyll I burne after and ouertake her

The louer loued goeth out.

No louer no; loued. well ye may burne to gyther for all this  
And do well ynough for ought that is yet amys  
For gods sake one conne after and bast hym  
It were great pyte the fyre shulde wast hym  
For beyng fatte your knowledge must reco;de  
I woodcock well rost is a dyshe for a lo;de  
And for a woodcock ye all must nowe knowe hym  
By mater of reco;de that so doth shewe hym  
And breuely to byng you all out of dowt  
All this haue I seyned to bynige abowt

C.1. Hym



Hym selfe to conuynce hym selfe euen by acte  
As he hath done here in dopng this facte  
He taketh moze thought for this one woman nowe  
Then coulde I for all in the worlde I make auowe  
Which hath so shamefully defaced his parte  
That to retorne nother hath he face no: harte  
Which sene, whyles he and she lese tyme in kyslyng  
Gyue ye with me iudgement a godes blessing

Louer loued.

The pofe of my sayeng at my fyrst entre  
That wretch byngeth now in place in that I leyde  
Dyslimblyng mans mynde by apparence, to be  
Thyng inconuenient, which thyng as I seyde  
Is proued nowe true, howe was I dysmeyd  
By his false sayng the deth of my darlyng  
Whome I thanke god is in helth and eyleth nothyng

No louer no: loued

By I beseeche you of all your dysmayng  
What other cause can ye ley then your loupng

Louer loued.

My loupng, nay all the cause was your lypng

No louer no: loued.

What had my lye done if ye had not loued

Louer loued.

What dyd my loue tyll your lye was moued

No louer no: loued.

By these two questions it semeth we may make  
Your loue and my lye to parte euenly the stake  
Loupng and lypng haue we brought nowe hyther  
Louers and lypers to ley both to gyther  
But put case my lye of her deth were true  
What excuse for your loue coulde then ensue

Louer loued.

If fortune god saue her dyd byng her to it  
The faute were in fortune and in loue no whyt

No louer no: loued.

The hole faute in fortune by my sheth well yt  
God sende your fortune better then your wyt

Louer loued.

Well sy: at extrempte I can proue  
The faute in fortune as much as in loue

No louer no: loued.

Then fortune in lyke case with loue nowe ioyne yow  
As I with loupng ioynd lypng euen now  
And well they may ioyne all by ought that I se  
For eche of all thze I take lyke vantage  
But syns ye confesse that your part of such payne  
Cometh halfe by loue, and that it is certayne  
That certayne paynes to loued louers do moue  
In whiche the faute in nothyng saue onoly loue  
Is dyed and ielously eche of which with mo  
To your estate of loue is a dayly fo  
And I clere out of loue declaryng such sholw  
As in my case no payne to me can grow  
I say this conspyred hath pyth suffycient  
In pofe of my parte to dyue you to iudgement

Ray









Louer loued.

Ray sytt a felwe woordes, sy: though I confes  
That loue byngeth some payne and your case paynles  
By meane of your contented quyetnes  
Yet thactuall pleasures that I posses  
Are as farre aboue the case that ye profes  
As is my payne in your ymagynacyon  
Under the pleasures of contentacyon  
Thus wade how ye wyll one way or other  
If ye wyne one way ye shall lese another  
But if ye intende for ende to be bryfe  
Joine wyth me herein for indifferent prefe  
A tree ye knowe wel is a thinge that hath life  
And such a thinge as neuer feleth payne or strife  
But euer quiet and alway contented  
And as there can no way be inuenied  
To bynge a tree dyspleasure by felinge paine  
So no felinge pleasure in it can remayne  
A hors is a thinge that hath life also  
And he oy felinge felish both welth and woo  
By dryyunge or drawyunge al day in the miter  
Many paynefull sojneys hath he in hler  
But after al those he hath alway at night  
These pleasures folowing to his great delyghe  
Fyrt saye washt at a riuer or a weye  
And straight brought to a stabel warme and saye  
By rubbyd and chafed from hed to hele  
And coryd tyll he be drye as an ele  
Then he is litted in maner nose hie  
And hey as much as will in his belie  
Then prouender hath he otes pefe benes or bryde  
Which fe ding in felinge as pleasaunt to his hede  
As to a couetous man to beholde  
Of his owne westminster hall full of golde  
After which seding he slepeth in quiet rest  
Deryng such time as his meat may degeat  
Al this consydered, a hors or a tree  
If ye must chose the tone which woulde ye be

No loue nor loued.

When the hors must to labour by our lady

Louer loued.

I had leuer be a tree then a hors I.

No loue nor loued.

But howe when he resteth and sylleth his gorge

Louer loued.

Then wolde I be a hors and no tree by saint George

No loue nor loued.

Louer loued.

But what if he must nedes sticke to the tone  
which were the best by the masse I can name none

The first case is yours and the next is for me

In case lyke a tree I may liken ye

For as a tree hath lyfe within feling

E.ii.

whereby



wherby it felith pleasing not displeasing  
 And can not be but contented quietly  
 Euen the like case is yours now presently  
 And as the hozs feleth paine and not the tree  
 Lpheyse I haue paine and no paine haue ye  
 And as a hozs aboue a tree felyth pleasure  
 So fele I pleasure aboue you in rate sure  
 And as the tre felith norhet and the hozs both  
 Euen so pleasure and paine betwene vs twaine goeth  
 Sins these two cases so indifferently fall  
 That your selfe can iudge nother for perciall  
 For indifferent ende I thinke this way best  
 Of all our reasoning to debarre the rest  
 And in these two cases this one question  
 To be the issue that we shal toyne on

No louer nor loued.  
 A louer loued.

Be it so

Louer not loued.

Nowe are these issues cowched so nic  
 That both sides I trust shal take ende shortly  
 I hope and desire the same and syns we  
 were syt harde, we both humbly beseeche ye  
 That we in like wise maye haue iudgement furth

Louer loued.  
 No louer nor loued.

I graunt

Louer loued.

By the masse and I come best or worst  
 Though nature force man sylly to encline  
 To his owne parte in ech particuler thing!  
 yet reason wolde man whan man shal determine  
 Other mens partes by indifferent awarding  
 Indifferent to be in al his reasoning  
 wherfore in this parte cut out of affection  
 So that indifferency be direction

No louer nor loued.

Contented with that and by ought I espye  
 we may in this mater take ende quickly  
 Scan we theyr cases as she did apply them  
 That we may perceiue what is ment by them  
 He loueth vnloued a goodly one  
 She is loued not louinge of an vgly one  
 Or in his eye his louer semeth goodly  
 And in her eye her lover semeth as vgly  
 Her most despyred angels face he can not see  
 His most lothely hell houndes face she can not see  
 He loueth, she abhorreth wherby presens is  
 His life, her deeth, wherby I say euen this  
 Be his feling paines in euery degre  
 As great and as many as he sayth they be  
 yet in my iudgement by these cases hath she  
 As great and as many feling paines as he

when









**Louer loued.** When mater at full is indifferently leyd  
 As yee in this iudgement haue leyd this now  
 What reason the tyme by me shulde be deleyd  
 Ye haue spoken my thought wherfoze to you  
 In peyling your paines my consciens doth allowe  
 I will counterpasse and thus your paynes be  
 I iudged by vs twaine one paine in degre

**Louer not loued.** Well sirs your consyens driueth you thus to iudge  
 I receiue this iudgement without greife or grudge

**Loued not louing.** And I in like rate, yelding vnto you twaine  
 Partly thanks for this your vnderstand paine

**Louer not loued.** Nowe maisters may it please you to declare  
 As touching their partes of what minde ye are

**Loued not louing.** With right good will sir, and sure I suppose  
 Their partes in fewe wordes maye come to pointe well  
 The two examples which he did disclose  
 All errours or doubtles do clerly expell  
 The estate of a tre his estate doth tell  
 And of the hoys his tale wel vnderstande  
 Declareth as well his case nowe in hande

For as nothing can please or displease a tre  
 By any pleasure or displeasur feling  
 Nor neuer bring a tre discontent to be  
 So like case to him not loued nor louing  
 Loue can no way bring pleasing or displeasing  
 Like women, die women, like women, or swim,  
 In all he content, for al is one to him

And as a horse hath many painefull fornes  
 A louer best loued hath paines in like wise  
 As here hath apered by sondry weys  
 Which sheweth his case in worst part to rise  
 But then as the horse feleth pleasure in life  
 At night in the stable about the tre  
 So feleth he some pleasure as farre about ye

In some case he feleth much more pleasure then he  
 And in some case he feleth euen as muche lesse  
 Betwene the more and the lesse it semeth to me  
 That betwene their pleasures no choise is to gesse  
 Wherfoze I giue iudgement in this processe  
 Set the one pleasure euen to the tother

**No louer nor loued.** Womanly spoken maisters by the goodes mother

**Louer not loued.** Who heareth this tale both in different minde

C.iii.

And



And seeth of these twaine eche one so full bent  
To his owne parte that nother in harte can finde  
To chaunge pleasures with other must nedes assent  
That he in these woꝝdes hath gyuen ryght iudgement  
In affirmance wherof I iudge and awarde  
Both these pleasures of yours as one in regarde

Louer loued. Wel syns I thinke ye both without corruption  
I shall moue no mater of interruption  
No louer nor loued. No; I but maysters though I say nought in this  
May I not thinke my pleasure more than his  
Loued not louing. Affeccion vnbydled may make vs al thynke  
That eche of vs hath done other wꝝonge  
But where reason taketh place it can not sinke  
Syns cause to be percial here is none vs amonge  
That one hed that wolde thinke his owne wit so strong  
That on his iudges he myght iudgement deuise  
What iudge in so iudging coulde iudge hym wꝝse  
Louer loued. well myne estate ryght wel contenteth me  
No louer nor loued. And I with myne as well content as ye

Louer not loued. So shulde ye both likewise be contented  
Eche other to see content in such degree  
As on your partes our iugement hath awarded  
your neyghbour in pleasure lyke your selfe to be  
Gladly to wishe Christes precept both bynde ye  
Thus contentacion shulde alway prefer  
One man to ioy the pleasure of an other

Louer loued. True and contencion may be in like case  
Ill though no helth yet helpe and greate relese  
In both your paynes for ye hauing such grace  
To be contented in sufferance of grese  
Shall by contentacion auoide much myschiefe  
Such as the contrary shall suerly bring you  
Payne to paine as paineful as your paine is now

Thus not we foure but al the woꝝlde beside  
Knowlege them selfe or other in ioy or payne  
Hath nede of contentacion for a gyde  
Hauinge ioy or payne content let vs remayne  
In ioy or payne of other flee we daðdaine  
Be we content welth or woo, and eche for other  
Reioyse in the tone and pyte the tother

Louer not loued. Syns such contencion may hardly acorde

In such









In such kynde of loue as here hath ben ment  
Let vs seke the loue of that loupng lord  
who to suffer passion for loue was content  
wherby his louers that loue for loue assent  
Shall haue in fyne aboue contentacyon  
The felypng pleasure of eternall saluacyon

which lord of lordes whose topfull and blessed byrth  
Is now remembred by tyme presentyng  
This accustomyd tyme of honest myrth  
That lord we beseeche in most humble meanyng  
That it may please hym by mercyfull hearpyng  
The state of this audpens longe to endure  
In myrth, helth, and welth, to graunt his pleasure

A M C R.

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